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New Exhibit Explores Travel in Early Southern Illinois

[Your town name, state]—[Your institution's name] will host a new traveling exhibit exploring travel and transportation in early Illinois up to the time of the railroads. The exhibit, *Over the River and Through the Woods: Getting Around Southern Illinois*, will run from [insert dates and times here]. Created by the Southern Partnership Project of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency Historic Sites Division, the exhibit is open to the public free of charge.

"Though not a large exhibit, this display is full of interesting information about the difficulties early travelers faced on the Illinois frontier," said Erin Bishop, historian for the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. "Our highway system makes getting around so easy, it's hard to imagine how daunting crossing this state must have been when roads were barely navigable and sometimes walking from point A to point B was the only alternative."

Using colorful graphics, historic illustrations and interpretive maps, the exhibit tells the story of how people moved into and around Southern Illinois in a time before cars, highways, airplanes and luxury yachts. Quotes from historical figures, such as Lewis and Clark, describe the dusty roads, washed out bridges, treacherous rivers and the many

hardships and hazards of both overland and water travel in early Illinois. A supplemental timeline provides visitors the context of Southern Illinois' history and settlement patterns.

Over the River and Through the Woods was designed to meet several of the Illinois State Learning Standards. A new web site hosted by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency accompanies the exhibit. The web site features a guide to the learning standards addressed by the exhibit, lesson plans and activities for school age groups, and an additional reading list for those who want to increase their knowledge of the history of travel and the settlement of Southern Illinois. The web site also contains an exhibit schedule and information for institutions interested in booking the display. Visit the site at www.illinois-history.gov.

The Southern Partnership Project of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency is a collaborative effort between neighboring state historic sites and private museums to create educational programs for the Southern Illinois Region. "Southern Illinois is often forgotten," explained Cynthia Upchurch, chair of the Partnership Project. "We want to create programs that emphasize the great history of this area."

[Include a "for more information" blurb at the end. Include a contact name, phone number, email or web address and directions to your location.]

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